MINUTES

— OF THE —

FIFTY-FIFTH ANNUAL MEETING

— OF THE —

PEARL RIVER BAPTIST ASSOCIATION,

CONVENED AT

Bethany Church,

Lawrence County, Mississippi,

September 12th, 1874.

BROOKHAVEN CITIZEN PRINT,
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MINUTES.

BETHANY CHURCH, Lawrence Co., Miss., Sept. 12th, 1874.

At a stand in the Grove near the house, the Introductory Sermon was preached by Elder J. E. Pouns from I Cor. 11th chap. 11th verse.

After a short intermission, the delegates met in the house and were called to order by the Moderator, Elder N. Robertson. A hymn of praise was sung, and prayer by Elder J. E. Pouns.

Brothers T. J. Martin and M. Tyler were appointed Reading Clerks, by whom the letters from the Churches were read, and delegates names recorded, and statistics tabled.

Brothers A. S. Harper and N. Barnes were appointed to assist the Treasurer in receiving the contributions from the Churches.

The Association proceeded to the election of officers, Bros. S. Ross and N. Barnes, tellers, which resulted in the election of Elders N. Robertson, Moderator; A. Goss, Clerk, and Bro. F. M. Polk, Treasurer.

An invitation was given to Ministers present, not Messeugers, to seats with us and take part in our deliberations.

Call for Petionary Letters.

When the delegates from Bethel Church, Covington county, presented their letter, and being found orderly, and after reading their Abstract of Faith, were received, by the Moderator extending to them the right hand of fellowship and invited them to seats.

Appointment of Committees.

Brothers A. S. Harper, J. A Bass, A. A. Sheperd, A. Morris, S. Ross, and on motion the Pastor and Deacons of this Church be added, a Committee on Preaching.

Brothers N. Barnes and G. W. Farmer a Committee to examine the Treasurer's Report.

Brothers A. Goss, G. W. Farmer, J. A. Bass and S. S. Relyea a Committee on Ministerial Education, the Mississippi College and Domestic Mission.

Elder J. E. Pouns, Bros. S. Ross and G. W. Farmer a Committee on printing Elder N. Robertson's work on "Theology."

Correspondence Received.

HABOLOCHITTO ASSOCIATION.—Her Messengers, Elder T. Price and and Brother A. J. Fry, with package of Minutes.

BOGUECHITTO ASSOCIATION.—Her Messengers B. A. Crawford and W. J. Fortenberry, with package of Minutes.

EBENEZER ASSOCIATION.—Her Messengers Elder J. A. Boutwell and B. F. Rawls.

EASTERN LOUISIANA ASSOCIATION.—Her Messenger S. S. Relyea, with package of Minutes.

FAIR RIVER ASSOCIATION.—Her Messengers L. C. Maxwell and B. Magee, with package of Minutes.

BAPTIST STATE CONVENTION.—Her Messenger M. T. Martin, with package of Minutes.

GENERAL ASSOCIATION OF SOUTHERN MISSISSIPPI AND EASTERN LOUISIANA ASSOCIATION.—Her Messenger S. S. Relyea.

Correspondence Arranged.

HABOLOCHITTO ASSOCIATION.—Elder R. R. Turnage and Brother B. Y. Lewis.

BOGUECHITTO ASSOCIATION.—Eld. J. L. Chandler and J. A. Sandifer.

EBENEZER ASSOCIATION.—Elder J. E. Pouns and A. S. Harper.
EASTERN LOUISIANA ASSOCIATION.—Elder J. E. Pouns.
FAIR RIVER ASSOCIATION.—Bros. G. W. Farmer and L. J. Bullock.

Report of Preaching Committee.

The report was read and approved for Sunday. S. S. Relyea to preach at 10½ o'clock, A. M., B. A. Crawford 1 o'clock, P. M., and Thomas Price to close the services.

On Motion, the Association adjourned to meet at 9 o'clock Monday morning. Prayer and Benediction by the Moderator.

SUNDAY'S EXERCISES.

The congregation met at the Stand in the Grove near the House, and were addressed by S. S. Relyea in the forenoon, and in the afternoon by B. A. Crawford and Thomas Price. We hope good and lasting impressions were made.

MONDAY'S PROCEEDINGS.

The Association met pursuant to adjournment. After singing, prayer by J. L. Chandler. The Moderator announced the Association in order for business.

Report of Preaching Committee for To-day.

Elders E. L. Carter at 10½ A. M., R. R. Turnage at 1 P. M., and J. L. Chandler to close.

By vote it was decided that we hold our next session with State Line Church.

On motion, the reception of Bethel Church, Covington county, was reconsidered; on account of some not being satisfied with the 15th article of their faith, and after some time spent in showing it is not the faith of this Association, on motion was received on the following:

RESOLVED, That this Association do not concur in the views expressed in the 15th article of the abstract of faith subscribed to by the Bethel Church, but we are willing said Church should practice in such cases according to her own views of duty.

And further, as we think it is not essential to the constitution of a Church, and as we have never known the adoption of such an article by any Baptist Church or Association, we would respectfully advise the Church to expunge said article from her Confession of Faith.

From West Pearl River Association.—A package of Minutes by the hand of M. M. Fortenberry.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES.

Report on Domestic Mission.

The Committee appointed to consider the subject of Domestic Missions beg leave to report: That it is to be deeply regretted that a more active spirit of operation does not exist among our people in regard to the subject of Mission. While strictly missionary in theory, our people are doing almost nothing in practice.

The cause of this it may not be necessary now to discuss; but it is proper to refer to one serious obstacle which seems to stand directly in the way of an active enterance upon the work of Missions. We refer to the matter of ministerial support among the Churches. In times like the present, when the Pastors of the Churches are compelled to struggle so hard for a living, and when the Churches lack so much of coming up to the measure of their duty in this respect, it seems almost hopeless to expect much liberality in regard to Missions. It is hoped, however, that our Churches will endeavor to do something more than they have done for the spread of the Gospel among the destitute. The Committee recommend the adoption of the following resolutions:

RESOLVED, That we rejoice in the intelligence that the Lord is blessing the Board of Domestic Missions of the Mississippi Baptist Convention and of the General Association of Southern Mississippi and East Louisiana, in extending the cause of Christ in the southern portion of Mississippi and East Louisiana.

RESOLVED, That we renew our expression of sympathy for these bodies, and that we cordially commend them to the co-operation of our Churches.

RESOLVED, That the Churches of this Association be, each and all of them, requested to send up at our next annual meeting a liberal contribution for Domestic Missions.

On Ministerial Education and Mississippi College.

Your Committee on Ministerial Education and Mississippi College, feeling that there is a need of information among our people on the subject of Ministerial Education, (here the Committee recommend an address by Elder S. S. Relyea, which was rejected by the Association.)

WHEREAS, Ministerial Education is conducted by our Boarn in connection with the College at Clinton, on the principles set forth in the foregoing address.

We recommend that young men in our bounds seeking an education place themselves under the direction of said Board; and

WHEREAS, The work of Ministerial Education is so intimately connected with the existence of our College, and the existence of the College so entirely dependent upon securing a permanent endowment fund,

We recommend to our Churches and Brethren that they take a deep interest in this work, and manifest that interest by their support.

A. GOSS, Chairman.

We your Committee appointed to take into consideration the best method for the publication of a work on "Theology," prepared by Elder N. Robertson, would recommend to this Association the propriety of requesting the delegates of the Churches to place this subject before those Churches, and report their decision to the Clerk of this Association as early as practicable. Respectfully submitted,

J. E. POUNS, Chairman.

The letters of correspondence were read and approved.

We your Auditing Committee have examined the Treasurer's Report and find it correct, and amply sustained by proper vouchers.

N. BARNES,
G. W. FARMER, } Commitee.

TREASURER'S REPORT.

—:o:—

F. M. POLK, Treasurer,

In Account with Pearl River Association.

DR.

To amount received last Association, 1873		$ 139 20
Paid A. Goss for printing Minutes	$ 45 00	
Per order of Association for services rendered	25 00—	70 00
Balance on hand for Associational purposes		$ 69 20
Received from Society Hill Church for Domestic Mission in 1872 and 1873		10 50
Contributions from the Churches this year, 1874		81 25
New Hope Church for Domestic Mission		1 65

A. S. HARPER, N. BARNES, } Assistants.

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RESOLUTIONS.

The following resolutions were introduced and adopted by the Association:

RESOLVED, That this Association pay one dollar per day to her Ministers who represent us as Messengers to other bodies, while necessarily absent from home.

RESOLVED, That the Association renew the invitation extended at the last meeting to Elder S. S. Relyea, the Corresponding Secretary of the General Association of South Mississippi and East Louisiana, to visit the Churches within the bounds of this Association; and that he be requested, so far as may be consistent with his mind and the mind of the Churches visited, to present the duty of the Churches in regard to the support of the Ministry.

RESOLVED, That we now proceed to appoint delegates to attend the next annual meeting of the Mississippi Baptist State Convention and of the General Association of South Miss. and East Louisiana.

Delegates to the Mississippi State Convention.—A. Goss, N. Robertson and G. W. Farmer.

Delegates to the General Association of South Mississippi and East Louisiana.—A. Goss, J. E. Pouns, R. R. Turnage, N. Robertson, J. J. Goss, G. W. Farmer, J. A. Bass and J. M. Ritchey.

WHEREAS, the Orphans Home, from considerations set forth in the circulars of the worthy Superintendent, Elder R. N. Hall, has peculiar demands upon our people for support; therefore,

RESOLVED, that we recommend that each Church in this Association select an agent, who should correspond with Brother Hall at Lauderdale, and co-operate with him in caring for the Lord's poor, who are placed under our protection at the Home.

RESOLVED, That the Clerk superintend the distribution of the Minutes; and that he draw on the Treasurer for money to defray the expenses of the same; and that he be allowed the usual fee for his services.

RESOLVED, That we have our Articles of Faith printed in the Minutes.

ON NOMINATIONS.

The report of the Committee on Nominations was read and adopted.

Elder A. Goss to preach the Introductory Sermon at our next annual meeting, Elder J. L. Chandler, Alternate.

The business of the Association being finished, the Minutes were read and approved, and the Association adjourned to meet with State Line Church, Marion County, (on the west side of Pearl River, 21 miles from Columbia,) on Saturday before the 2nd Lord's day in September, 1875.

N. ROBERTSON, Moderator,

A. Goss, Clerk.

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ARTICLES OF FAITH.

1. We believe in one Triune God, the Father, the Son and the Holy Ghost, the same in essence, equal in power and glory.

2. We believe the Scriptures of the Old and New Testament were given by the inspiration of God, and are the only rules of faith and practice.

3. We believe in the fall of Adam from his original rectitude, in the imputation of his sin to all posterity, in the total depravity of human nature, and in man's inability to restore himself to the favor of God.

4. We believe that God hath loved his people with an everlasting love; that he chose them in Christ before the foundation of the world, that he calleth them with a holy and effectual calling, and being justified alone through the righteousness of Christ, imputed to them, they are kept, by the power of God, through faith, into salvation.

5. We believe there is one Mediator between God and man, the man Jesus Christ, who, by the satisfaction he made to law and justice in becoming an offering for sin, hath, by his most precious blood, redeemed the elect from under the curse of the law, that they might be holy and without blame before him in love.

6. We believe that good works are the fruits of faith, and follow after justification, and are evidences of a gracious state, and that all believers are bound to obey every command of God from a principle of love.

7. We believe in the resurrection of the dead, and a general judgment, that the happiness of the righteous and the punishment of the wicked will be everlasting.

On Gospel Order.

1. We believe that a visible Church of Christ is a congregation of faithful persons who have given themselves to the Lord, and to one another in brotherly covenant to keep up a godly dicipline, agreeable to the rules of the New Testament.

2. We believe that Jesus Christ is the only head and lawgiver of his Church; that the government is with the body, the church, and is equally the right and privilege of each member thereof.

3. We believe that Baptism and the Lord's supper are gospel ordinances appointed by Jesus Christ, and are to be continued in the Church until his second coming.

4. We believe that immersion only is baptism, and that believers in Christ are the only proper subjects.

5. We believe that none but regularly baptized church members have a right to partake of the Lord's supper.

6. We believe that it is the duty and privilege of all believers to make a public confession of their faith, to submit to the ordinances of the gospel, and give themselves as members to the visible church.

7. We believe it to be the duty of every church to expel from her communion every member that is immoral in conduct, or holds doctrines contrary to the Scriptures.

TABLE OF CHURCHES, ETC.

CHURCHES.	Counties	Post Offices.	NAMES OF DELEGATES.	Baptised	Rec'd by Letter	Restored	Dis'd by Letter	Excluded	Deceased	Total	Copies Minutes	Contributions
Antioch	Lawrence	Brookhaven	L. J Bullock	14	4	3	2	6		68	25	$ 3 30
Antioch	Marion	Columbia	J. A. Sandifer, J D. Holmes	15		2	2			61	2	3 00
Bethany	Lawrence	Silver Creek	N. Robertson, F. M. Polk, J. A. Bass, G. W. Hartzog	1	6		7	1	2	301	50	10 00
Bethel	Lawrence	Monticello	A. W. Maxwell, W. C. Maxwell	11	4	1	2		1	52	20	3 00
Crooked Creek	Lawrence	Silver Creek	S. C. Buckley, S. C. Dale	6		1	11	2	1	54	15	4 00
Cedar Grove	Marion	Columbia	J. W. Cox, J. W. Fortenberry	19	8	1	4		1	56	20	3 00
Columbia	Marion	Columbia	A. Goss, J. N. Brakefield							9	6	1 00
Ebenezer	Covington	Wilksburg	A. S. Harper, N. Barnes	12	2		7			74	30	4 00
Graves Creek	Marion	Columbia	E. Watts, A. S. Watts	6	3			2	1	58	26	2 70
Hepzibah	Lawrence	Oak Vale	A. A Shepers, W. S. Stamps	12	6	3	5			132	30	5 00
Holly Springs	Lawrence	Silver Creek	M. M. Fortenberry, W. E. Fortenberry	3	3		9		1	32	12	3 00
Holly Springs	Marion	Columbia	W. A Graham, Henry Hammons	6	4		2			35	15	2 00
Little Bahala	Lincoln	Beauregard	C. W. Farmer, S. Ross	4	5		17	2		116	25	5 50
Magees Creek	Pike	China Grove	J. L. Chandler, W. J. Stovall	7	1		4			75	25	4 00
Providence	Pike	Summit	J D. Wallace, W. J. Stovall	3	5		10	1	2	64	30	2 50
Pleasant Hill	Lincoln	Bogue chitto	W. L. Bowman, J. M. Ritchey	1	2		3	1	1	70	50	5 00
Silver Creek	Lawrence	Monticello	B Y. Lewis, Sebern Armstrong	1	1	3	4		2	37	15	2 75
Society Hill	Lawrence	Oak Vale	N. S. Buckley, J W. Talor	20	7	1	6		1	118	40	5 00
State Line	Marion	Columbia	J. Pigatt, A. Morris	8		1	1			88	25	3 00
New Hope	Marion	China Grove	J. Pouns. R. R. Turnage	9	12		2	1		72	30	5 00
White Sand	Lawrence	Mt. Carmel	J. A. Boyangton, J. R. Polk		2		5		1	39	20	3 00
Bethel	Covington	Wilksburg	T. C. Broom, J. F. Broom							13	10	1 50
				158	69	15	103	18	13	1524	598	$81 25

[illegible]	[illegible]	China Grove	J. Pounds, R. R. Turnage	9	12	..	2	1	..	72	30	5	00
White Sand	Lawrence	Mt. Carmel	J. A. Boyangton, J. R. Polk	...	2	..	5	..	1	39	20	3	00
Bethel	Covington	Wilksburg	T. C. Broom, J. F. Broom	...	..	..	..	..	..	13	10	1	50
				158	69	15	103	18	13	1524	598	381	25

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